

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 08474 251542Z

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FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EG IS

SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN COMPLAINT RE ALLEGED ISRAELI ATTEMPT

TO RESETTLE TRIBESMEN AND ESTABLISH KIBBUTZIM
IN SINAI

1. MINISTER OF STATE SAMIH ANWAR ASKED ME TO CALL THIS AFTERNOON. ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM PRESIDENT SADAT, HE RELATED THE FOLLOWING:

2. THE ISRAELIS ARE ATTEMPTING TO RELOCATE THE TRIBES IN SINAI. SPECIFICALLY, ISRAELI MILITARY AUTHORITIES IN SINAI SUMMONED ALL SINAI TRIBAL SHEIKHS TO A MEETING HELD ON OCTOBER 20 IN NAKLAH REGION. AT THAT MEETING, THEY ALLEGEDLY PRESENTED FOUR ALTERNATIVE PROPOSALS TO THE INHABITANTS OF SHEIKH ZUWAID BETWEEN ABU TAWILHA AND EAST BEYOND RAFA. ACCORDING TO EGYPTIAN INFORMATION, THE ISRAELIS WANT TO ESTABLISH FOUR KIBBUTZIM IN THE AREA.

3. THE FOUR ALTERNATIVES PRESENTED TO THE SHEIKHS FOR THEIR FOLLOWERS WERE A) TRIBESMAN ACCEPTS AN ISRAELI OFFER TO BUILD A HOUSE OUTSIDE THE AREA WHERE HE NOW LIVES, RELINQUISHES HIS AGRICULTURAL LAND IN THE AREA AND RECEIVES (UNSPECIFIED)

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 CAIRO 08474 251542Z

FINANCIAL COMPENSATION; B) HE AGREES TO RESETTLEMENT OUTSIDE

HIS HOME AREA WITH ISRAELIS PROVIDING HIM WITH TEN DUNUMS OF RECLAIMED LAND ELSEWHERE AS COMPENSATION FOR RELINQUISHED LANDS AND ALSO SOME FINANCIAL COMPENSATION, C) HE ACCEPTS PIECE (SIZE UNSPECIFIED) OF UNRECLAIMED LAND ELSEWHERE IN SINAI, TOGETHER WITH A SUM OF MONEY TO ENABLE ITS RECLAMATION FOR AGRICULTURAL PURPOSES AS WELL AS SOME FINANCIAL COMPENSATION, OR D) HE ACCEPTS TOTAL COMPENSATION FOR HIS LAND IN WHICH CASE NOTHING ELSE DUE TO HIM. SINAI SHEIKHS REPORTEDLY TOLD THAT THEY HAD 15 DAYS (FROM OCT 20) TO REPLY. IF THEY OR THEIR PEOPLE REFUSED ALL OF THESE ALTERNATIVES, THEY WOULD BE EVICTED BY FORCE.

4. SAMIH ANWAR SAID THAT IN INSTRUCTING HIM TO INFORM USG OF THE ABOVE, THE PRESIDENT HAD INDICATED EGYPT WILL NOT RPT NOT SIT BY IDLY IF ISRAELIS ATTEMPT TO EVICT OR RELOCATE THESE SINAI TRIBAL PEOPLE AND MIGHT TAKE THE PROBLEM TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL. THE PRESIDENT WANTED THE SECRETARY TO BE INFORMED OF THE ABOVE WITH THE REQUEST THAT HE PRESS THE ISRAELIS TO DESIST FROM SUCH LAND SEIZURE EFFORTS.
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